

How Can I Get More Information?

Site documents, such as the ongoing investigation reports and the upcoming feasibility study, provide details of the known nature and extent of contamination and the work that has been completed at the sites. These documents are part of the Administrative Record and are available at the Alpha Park Public Library and at the Air National Guard Base. Please contact Roxanne Lastoria to view the document on Base.

If you have questions, please contact:

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A public meeting will be held to discuss establishing a Restoration Advisory Board (RAB) for the Illinois National Guard Base, Peoria.

When: Tuesday, June 30, 2009, at 7:00 P.M.

Where: Alpha Park Library meeting room,
3527 South Airport Road, Bartonville, IL

If you need special services or accommodations to attend the meeting, contact Roxanne Lastoria.

Everyone is welcome to attend the public meeting, regardless of whether you are interested in joining a RAB. Inside this fact sheet, you will find information about how a RAB can contribute to the environmental cleanup process.

Illinois Air National Guard

Environmental Restoration Program Fact Sheet

Peoria, Illinois

June 2009

The 182d Airlift Wing of the Illinois Air National Guard is leading the investigation and cleanup of three Environmental Restoration Program sites at or near the General Wayne A. Downing Peoria International Airport. The Air National Guard is working in partnership with the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency. **The partnering team invites you to be a part of the decision-making process as the sites are investigated, cleaned up, and closed.**

Four other sites at the airport already have been closed with regulatory approval after investigation and, at one site, removal of contaminated soil. This fact sheet describes the remaining three sites and the process being used to clean up solvents and fuels left behind during previous Air National Guard Base operations.

The Environmental Restoration Program is a nationwide effort to identify possible environmental contamination that may have resulted from past practices, accidents or incidents at military bases. The process for investigating and cleaning up sites to protect human health and the environment is regulated by the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (commonly referred to as Superfund) and the 1986 Superfund Amendments and Reauthorization Act.

Three Sites Are Being Investigated

The sites are located on the east side of the airport in the area of the former Air National Guard Base (Figure 1). The Air National Guard originally leased 17.1 acres from the airport in 1947, later expanded to 46.7 acres in 1980. In 1994, a new Air National Guard Base was constructed west of the airport. The Army National Guard now occupies the buildings at the former Air National Guard area.

Site 5 is located south of the concrete apron (Figure 1). A plume of contaminated



groundwater is associated with a former tank farm that had stored petroleum, oil, and lubricants. The groundwater is contaminated with chemicals found in fuel and solvents that were used in the past to clean equipment. These chemicals are benzene, trichloroethene (TCE), cis-1,2-dichloroethene, and vinyl chloride.

A leaking underground storage tank may have lead to groundwater contamination at Site 6 (Figure 1). However, prior to Air National Guard use, Site 6 was used for aircraft maintenance and fuel storage. The Air National Guard agreed to conduct additional investigation, such as groundwater sampling. The Air National Guard is working to secure funding.

Site 7 has both an onsite and an offsite study area (Figure 1), each with associated groundwater plumes. The onsite area is where the Air National Guard formerly maintained vehicles and collected maintenance waste products in drums. Chemicals detected in groundwater from the onsite study area are now present at concentrations below cleanup or action levels. The offsite study area is located on the east side of Airport Road, where, over time, chemicals have migrated to the adjacent residential neighborhood. Groundwater at the Site 7 offsite study area is contaminated with TCE, associated with the cleaning solvents used in the past.

Can the Known Contamination Affect Me?

Chemicals in the shallow groundwater (about 3 to 30 feet below ground) are present at levels that could be harmful to human health, if people were to contact or ingest the groundwater. The shallow groundwater is not used as a source of potable water, because the homes and other buildings in the affected area are served by public water supply.

Further investigation is needed to define the areas of contamination and possible risk to human health. Chemical concentrations observed in the groundwater at Sites 5 and 7 show a potential for vapor intrusion into existing or future homes and other buildings. Vapor intrusion can affect indoor air quality.

Future Steps

The Air National Guard conducted soil vapor sampling at Sites 5 and 7 in June 2009. Sample results and potential health effects will be evaluated over the summer. Information will be shared with the public in fall 2009. Groundwater sampling also was performed at the Site 7 offsite area in June, to define the area of groundwater contamination. Groundwater sampling likely will be performed at Sites 6 and 7 in 2009.



Next, the Air National Guard will prepare a feasibility study report to evaluate different cleanup methods, known as remedial actions. As part of the feasibility study, the Air National Guard may conduct a pilot study of a potential remedial action to test its effectiveness.

After the feasibility study, a proposed plan will be prepared and submitted to the public and regulators for review and comment. A public meeting will be held to present the proposed plan and receive public questions and comments. The remedial action that is agreed upon will be documented in the record of decision, along with responses to the questions and comments received on the proposed plan. The Air National Guard will then implement the selected remedial action.

Community’s Role

The Department of Defense, which includes the Air National Guard, encourages community involvement in the environmental restoration process. When the local community is actively involved, the investigation and cleanup process is better understood. Community involvement includes the following components:

- Making an Administrative Record File available to the public
- Publishing fact sheets
- Holding public meetings
- Inviting public comment on proposed plans
- Preparing a Community Involvement Plan
- Establishing a Restoration Advisory Board (RAB)

Restoration Advisory Board

The best way for local community members to participate in the cleanup process is to become RAB members. RAB participation ensures consistent public awareness and involvement throughout the process, not merely at the end when cleanup decisions are being made.

RAB community members and representatives from the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency and Air National Guard would meet regularly. A RAB provides the opportunity for the community to review ongoing environmental restoration progress and discuss with the agencies’ decision makers. Advice from the RAB provides the agencies with a local perspective on environmental cleanup activities.

At this time, the Air National Guard is determining whether there is enough public support to establish a successful RAB. If you are interested in learning more about RABs, please attend the upcoming public meeting or contact Roxanne Lastoria (see How Can I Get More Information?).

Future public or RAB meetings will be advertised in the *Peoria Journal Star* and *Limestone Independent News* newspapers.

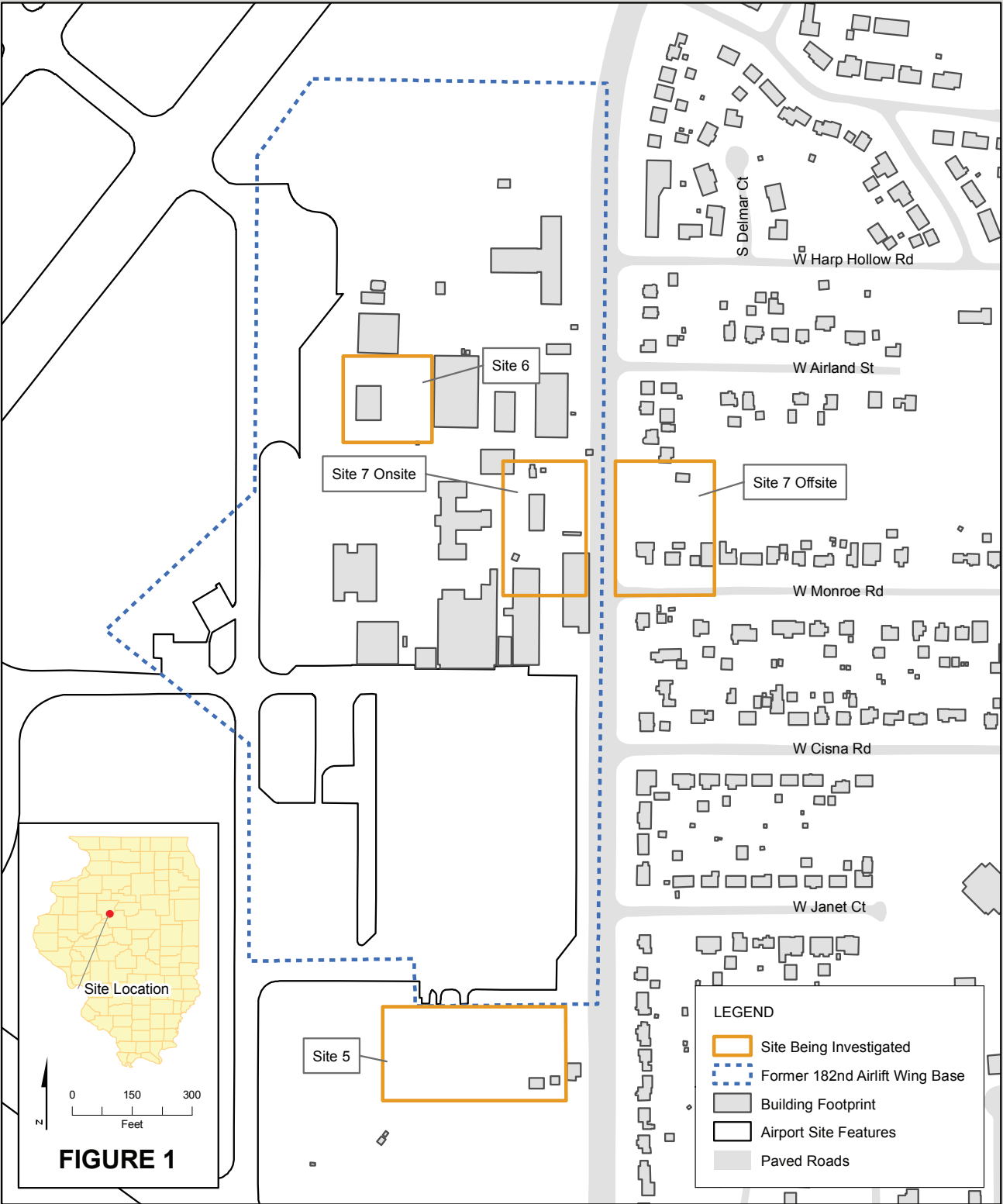


FIGURE 1